

October 8, 2019

Lopez School Parents:

We are writing you to let you know that staff, students, and school are safe at this time. The sheriff's department has completed an initial sweep of the school campus and an initial investigation regarding background on the threat that was reported to the school. At this time they have discovered no evidence of a credible or active threat of violence. There were no weapons found on campus and there have been no weapons turned into the school or confiscated at any time this school year.

All that said, we know that this has been a challenging and frightening situation for all of us and the students in particular.

With that in mind, we will keep the school closed to students tomorrow, Wednesday, with a planned reopening at the regular times on Thursday. The school will be using tomorrow to allow the sheriff to do additional investigation and safety assessments, including an additional sweep of the campus grounds and buildings. We will also be working with the staff to review our emergency procedures and to develop plans for reintegrating and working with students when school reopens on Thursday.

As well, tomorrow evening the school board will be holding a special meeting at 6 pm in the MPR to discuss this matter, share updated information, and hear from parents questions, concerns, and ideas. The Sheriff department will be there to answer questions.

Our hope is to reopen the school on Thursday morning. That said, if there are any new developments or if the sheriff's department has any concerns that there are safety issues, we will not open the school at that time. So that is our plan, but please keep connected to the school website, answering robo-calls, and looking at your school email for updates. Please feel free to come to the meeting at 6 pm on Wednesday evening, MPR.

Safety is our number one concern. We took the precaution of a lockdown today and then an early dismissal out of an extraordinary desire to be careful given the information that had been reported to us. We know that it was traumatic for students and staff. The decision was not made lightly but all felt it was necessary and the safest thing to do given the situation.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. Please be on watch for further updates.

Brian Auckland, Superintendent
Dixie Budke, Interim Principal
John Helding, School Board Chair

PS: If you have any additional questions at this time for the school, Brian Auckland's email is serving as our central information point. Please email him at bauckland@lopezislandschool.org. If you have any information regarding threats

of violence towards students or the school or additional information about this situation, please contact the San Juan County Sheriff at 360/378-4151.